

The Bexar County Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Office supports the U.S Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Transportation in their efforts to improve the security and safety of TIH shipments. We fully support your proposals to improve security plans, strengthen tank car integrity, enhance requirements for temporary storage, and implement improved communications and tracking systems.

However, we do not support the removal of hazardous materials placards and markings from TIH tank cars. Having recently experienced the worst U.S. railroad chlorine spill in the last ten years (60 tons spilled, 3 people killed, over 50 hospitalized), we believe it is critical for first responders and local residents to be able to immediately identify the contents of a railcar involved in an accident and take appropriate actions. Therefore, we do not see removal of placards and markings as a viable security option.